



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY 13TH APRIL 2017, ROYAL CHASE HOTEL, 7PM

PRESENT: Tony Morgan (**President**), Clive Carter (**Chair**, Thatchwise), David Perry (**Acting Vice-Chair, Press & PR**, Shaftesbury Wines) Nicola Carter (Nature's Treasures), Alice Perry (**Secretary**, Shaftesbury Wines), Pam Goodall (**Exec**, Glad Rags) Syd Guppy (**Exec**, Imprint), Rob Neely (**Membership, Publications** Dorset Store), Jan Klakus (Glad Rags), Craig Hacker (**Treasurer**, Andrews and Palmer)

1) WELCOME AND APOLOGIES. Members were welcomed by the Chair. Apologies were received from Shirley Allum (**Exec**), Karen Janes (**Exec**) Fran Hill, Carolyn Bieda, Carolyn Hopkins, and Virginia Edwyn-Jones.

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes were approved. The approval was proposed by Rob and seconded by Pam.

3) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes of 2016's AGM.

4) OFFICERS REPORTS

Each of the officers gave a brief (or not so brief!) report of their activities over the past year. As some of these were lengthy, they can be sent as separate documents to anyone requiring them.

The treasurer's report and the year's accounts were also presented, and were distributed to members in advance of the meeting in accordance with the constitution.

5) ELECTION OF 2017-2018 COMMITTEE (CHAIR BY THE PRESIDENT)

David Perry was **unanimously elected** as Chair.

He laid out his vision for building upon Clive's achievements as Chair. This included continuing to grow membership, maintaining a strong set of accounts, capitalising on our membership of Dorset Chamber, and building stronger links with the Town Council.

He also expressed his desire to build a stronger dialogue with out-of-town members, for which Syd's continued presence on the exec committee will be invaluable.

He would like to see improved attendance at Chamber meetings, particularly in light of the poor turn out for the AGM, and encouraged members present to consider how this could be done. (He did jokingly mention free wine!)

Finally, he thanked members present for their confidence in him. Clive responded by reiterating that he will willingly lend help and support or stand back as appropriate.

The Vice-Chair post remains vacant at present.

The Press and PR position will continue to be managed by David if needed, but it is hoped that James Thrift will take on more of the role, as he has been taking more photos over the past year and had good relations with the local press. David will liaise with James on this. **ACTION- DP/JT**

The Membership position will be taken on by Clive, with Nicola's assistance. This was **unanimously approved**.

The Publications position will be overseen by Rob, but it is hoped this will be done more as a joint effort, going forwards, run by a small committee, in order to share the load. This was **unanimously approved**.

The uncontested Honorary Treasurer position will remain filled by Craig. This was **unanimously approved**.

The Honorary Secretary position will be taken on by Virginia. This was **unanimously approved**.

Syd retracted his previously stated wish to stand down from the executive committee. Therefore there was no change among the existing 6 other executive members, and they were **unanimously approved en bloc**.



During the past year there had been one general executive committee position vacant. After lengthy discussion of the increasing need for consistent online and social media presence, led by Tony, it was **unanimously agreed** that a new position of Social Media Officer, who would keep the Facebook page on track, would be created. Alice agreed to take on this position, and was **unanimously approved**.

This section was concluded by the formal hand-over of the Chair from Clive to David. There was a short break whilst photos were taken and the Chain of Office was presented.

6) APPOINTMENT OF ANY NEW HONORARY MEMBERS

David's first proposal as Chair was to make Clive's business Thatchwise an honorary member in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Chamber. This was **unanimously approved**.

7) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Snowdrop Contribution There was discussion as to what sum had been pledged to the Snowdrop festival. It was agreed that this would be £500-worth of bulbs. David will liaise with Pam Cruickshank on this.

ACTION- DP

Following a query from Tony, Clive clarified why the snowdrop festival is of such importance to the Chamber, due to the tourism it brings into the town. Clive would like to see publication of it enhanced on the peripheries of the town rather than just within the centre. Tony suggested even investigating signage promoting Shaftesbury as a 'Snowdrop Town'.

Town Council Tony also enquired as to the Chamber's relations with the Town Council. It was reported by several exec members that progress towards more of a partnership with the Town Council appears to be being made. It was agreed by all that it is very desirable to see this continue to progress.

Clive has suggested a regular (perhaps quarterly) small meeting at the Town Hall, with the Tourism Association and other local organisations too. As yet this has not come to fruition. Tony commented that this seems a sensible idea, as the best way to effect change is for several organisations to form a 'united front.'

Wincombe Estate Post Box. Clive mentioned that the businesses on Wincombe Estate have been in need of a post box for some time. This is something that the Town Council have previously dismissed as not within their remit, but it is felt that it is something they should be taking forward to the Post Office on the behalf of the Chamber, as they wield greater power.

Again, this is something that should be reiterated to the Town Council as relations strengthen, especially with Claire Commons as Clerk, as it is felt that she is especially approachable.

Speeding in Town Pam expressed her concern that the 20mph speed limit is not being adhered to, and that additional signs seem to be needed. The 30mph speed limit signs on Bimport and Angel Lane also seem inappropriate and encourage excessive speed. There followed lengthy discussion of speed limits around the town. David will feed Pam's concerns back to the Town Council, who will need to liaise with Highways and/or Police.

ACTION- DP

Website and Social Media Presence In addition to appointing a Social Media Officer, there was discussion as to employing a paid member of staff to maintain the news and copy on the website, as funds are healthy. Tony mentioned that the Rotary club does so, and the yearly cost is low. No firm decisions were made, although it was suggested that someone like Fran Hill may be a good candidate.

David pointed out that, as with Press, the website can only report what is happening- if there is no news, it will necessarily be quiet.

Tesco Funding Clive reported that Tesco have three pots of money (£4k, £3k and £2k) available to community projects. (These are voted for by putting tokens into slots in the store) Louise from the Task Force has suggested that the Chamber should apply for the Christmas lights, as it is likely to be popular, and so Clive will do so in the next week.

ACTION- CC

Thanks! Nicola thanked David for taking on the Chair, and wished to publicly thank everyone who has supported Clive over the last 4 years – not only members, but the wider community too.



Super Sunday Market Alice has had an email from Tim Beer regarding the Super Sunday Markets. Sadly it has not proven viable for him to continue with them. There have not been enough stallholders interested to cover costs this month, and takings for those involved are just too low.

Despite Tim's best efforts and enormous amount of work, for which all present wished to express their thanks, it has not grown as hoped. There followed discussion of the work involved and of markets in general, and Clive mentioned that the way in which Tim planned the placement of stalls and the event as a whole was exemplary.

Fringe. There was general discussion of the Fringe's success last year, and the way in which it kept the public in town for longer and benefited Gold Hill Fair. Tony expressed his strong support for the Fringe, which he has also spoken to the Rotary about.

Rob mentioned that the Fringe will have banners out around a 40 mile radius this year. He also mentioned that there are acts coming from as far afield as South Africa, in order to hone their performance before Edinburgh Fringe.

Hanging Pennants Following on from discussion of the Fringe and the Snowdrop Festival, Clive mentioned a project that had been suggested early in his time as Chair. This was the suggestion of purchasing large hanging pennants which would stay up all year round, and list the Town's event by month, with a website listing the information at the bottom.

If this was to be picked up again, regular liaison with the Town Council would be necessary. David will also speak to James Hughes about this as it was something he had done some research into during his time as a Chamber exec member.

ACTION- DP

Tony mentioned that a list of events could be put on the Rotary website too.

AGM Minutes Alice sought approval to break with convention and send these minutes out in advance of the next members meeting, as opposed to the next AGM, in order to avoid a lengthy gap in acting on the topics discussed. This was **unanimously agreed**.

ACTION- AP

There was no further business, and the Chair closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

The next members meeting will take place on Thursday 11th May, at 6pm at The Royal Chase Hotel.